

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2005



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Faster-than-typical declines in unemployment rates

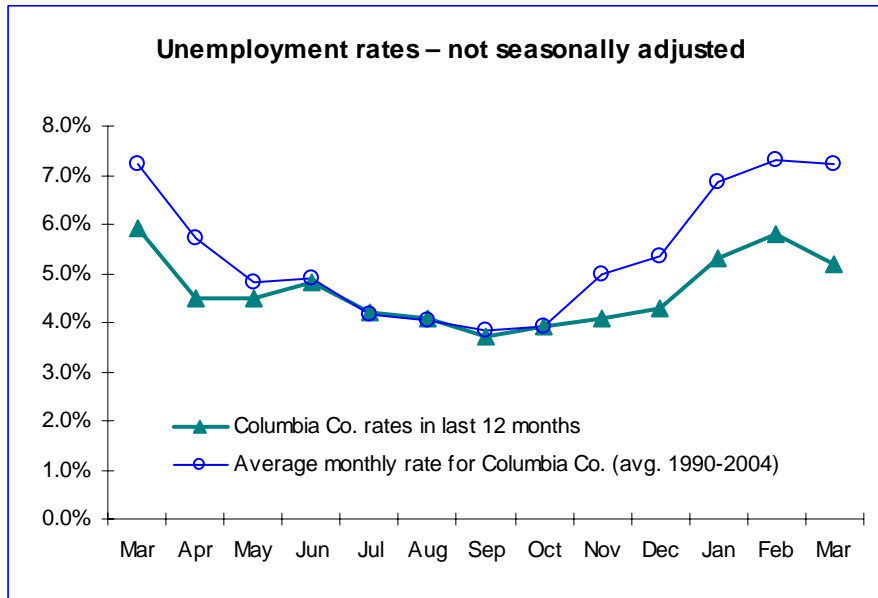
In March **Columbia County's** unemployment rate fell more quickly than usual. From November 2004 through January 2005, the rate rose more slowly than it usually does, so it is now further below its typical level than it has been at any point in the last 12 months.

Dane County's unemployment rate (3.4 percent) is the lowest in the state. Roughly 0.9 percent above its typical March level, the rate is consistent with recent months' rates. In the **Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area** (which now includes Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties), the employment estimate for construction, mining and natural resources remains well below year-ago levels, as it has been since its

sharp drop in January. The professional & business services employment estimate was below year-ago levels last March; between then and this March, that employment esti-

The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** fell faster than it usually does in March, leaving it closer to its typical level than it has been at any point in 12 months. Last

May and June the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was about 160 jobs (6.2%-6.3%) above year-ago levels. This January through March, leisure & hospitality employment estimate has been 40-60 jobs (2.0%-2.9%) below year-ago levels. The information, professional, business & other services sector's employment estimate dropped in January 2004 and



mate has shown the largest numerical gain (2,800 jobs) and fastest proportional gain (9.0 percent growth) of any sector's estimate.

did not return to December 2003 levels at any point in 2004 or 2005, but was higher in the first three months of 2005 than the first three months of 2004.

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia County			Dane County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,027,600	-18,600	-32,600	439,400	-2,500	-3,400	31,000	-260	-180	280,100	-1,470	-840
Employed	2,862,300	-7,200	-7,200	420,800	-1,060	-1,060	29,400	-80	20	270,600	-740	210
Unemployed	165,300	-11,400	-25,400	18,600	-1,480	-2,300	1,630	-180	-210	9,500	-730	-1,050
Unemployment rate	5.5%	-0.3%	-0.7%	4.2%	-0.3%	-0.5%	5.2%	-0.6%	-0.7%	3.4%	-0.2%	-0.4%

	Dodge County			Jefferson County			Marquette County			Sauk County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	45,300	-290	-1,070	42,300	-320	-940	7,800	20	-40	32,900	-220	-340
Employed	42,700	-130	-570	40,000	-100	-550	7,100	60	10	31,000	-70	-180
Unemployed	2,600	-150	-500	2,300	-230	-380	640	-40	-40	1,870	-150	-160
Unemployment rate	5.8%	-0.3%	-1.0%	5.5%	-0.4%	-0.7%	8.3%	-0.5%	-0.5%	5.7%	-0.4%	-0.4%

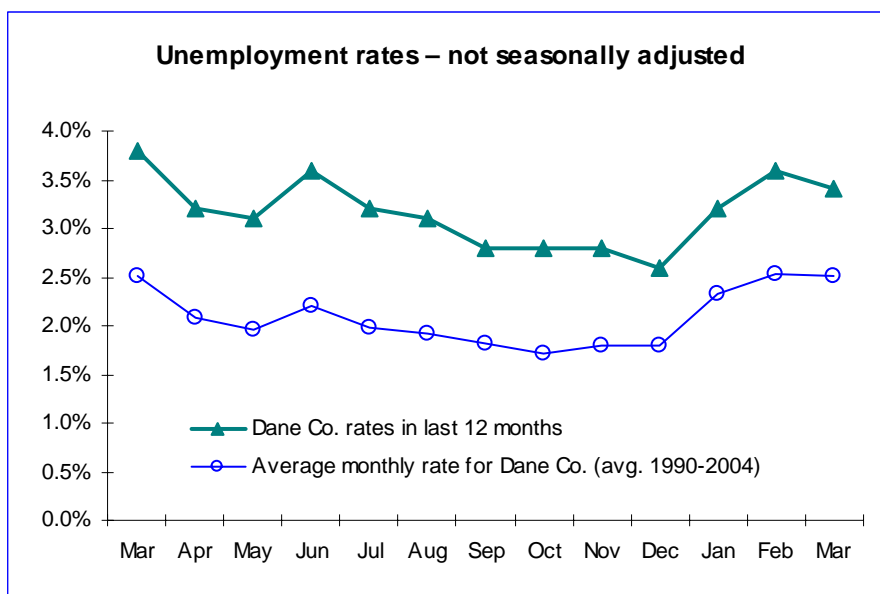
** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

Jefferson County's unemployment rate fell faster than usual in March, leaving it closer to its typical level than it has been in the last twelve months. Last August and September the information, professional, business & other services employment estimate was 610-620 jobs (10.9%-11.1%) above year-ago the estimate. In March of 2005, the information, professional, business & other services employment estimate was just 260 jobs or 4.9 percent above its year-ago level. Last March the manufacturing employment estimate was roughly 560 jobs or 5.5 percent higher than the previous March. This March the manufacturing employment estimate is roughly 330 jobs or 3.4 percent lower than last March.

The unemployment rate in **Marquette County** fell faster than it usually does in March and is further below its typical level than it has been at any point in the last 12

months. From March 2003 to March 2004 the information, professional, business & other services employment estimate rose fairly steadily. From March 2004 to March 2005, it remained fairly flat.

Falling faster than usual in March, **Sauk County's** unemployment rate is further below its typical rate than it has been at any point in the last 12 months. The information, professional, business & other services sector's employment estimate remains below year-ago levels (as it has been for the last 12 months) but less so than at any point in the last year. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate seems



to be picking up steam faster than it did last year at this time. Roughly 170 jobs or 8.8 percent above last March's level, the financial activities employment estimate remains robust, but slightly less so than last March's estimate (330 jobs or 19% above the March 2003 estimate).

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Madison MSA			Dodge County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,776,100	15,800	31,800	333,200	1,600	4,300	33,600	150	160
Const., min'g & nat. resources	118,400	2,000	4,200	14,000	400	- 1,100	1,910	10	20
Manufacturing	500,900	2,500	6,400	32,200	500	600	10,300	40	- 90
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	422,600	500	2,100	49,700	- 300	- 400	4,300	- 10	220
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	106,000	500	1,800	8,600	100	400	890	10	- 20
Financial activities	157,300	400	600	27,700	- 200	500	810	0	0
Education & health services	383,900	600	11,900	34,500	400	1,100	4,300	10	60
Leisure & hospitality	235,900	3,200	3,300	27,100	- 100	0	2,200	40	- 40
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	427,900	4,700	300	59,300	800	3,400	3,400	40	30
Government	423,200	1,400	1,200	80,100	0	- 200	5,500	20	- 20

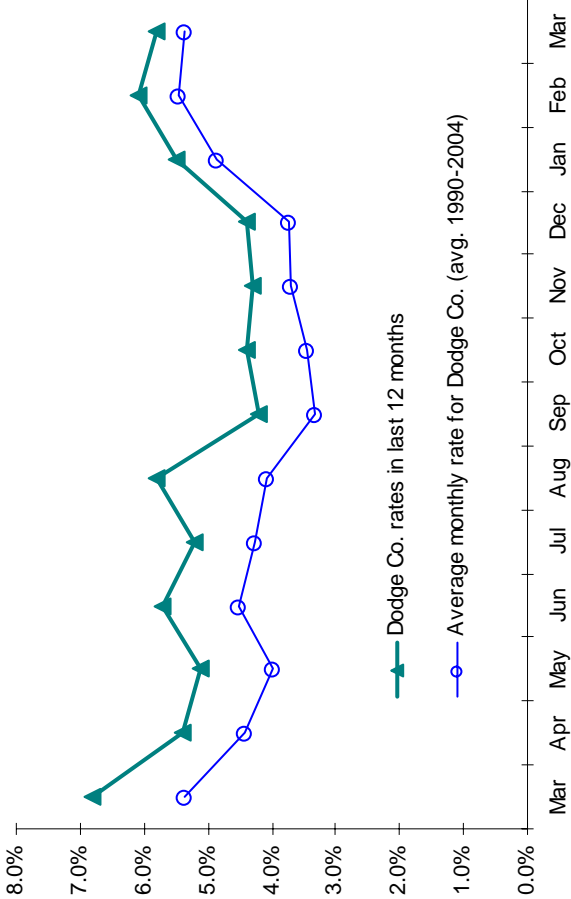
	Jefferson County			Marquette County			Sauk County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	36,000	180	- 140	3,900	80	90	35,400	220	510
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,420	50	90	110	0	- 40	1,870	80	20
Manufacturing	9,700	- 90	- 330	1,240	10	20	6,600	40	130
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	5,900	50	70	440	20	0	6,200	- 10	- 70
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	1,180	0	- 10	70	10	10	650	10	- 20
Financial activities	1,020	0	40	140	0	10	1,890	- 160	170
Education & health services	4,400	- 10	- 30	340	10	20	3,500	- 20	30
Leisure & hospitality	3,000	70	- 40	410	20	20	6,500	150	340
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	5,300	70	260	330	0	30	2,900	110	- 130
Government	4,000	40	- 190	830	10	30	5,400	20	40

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.

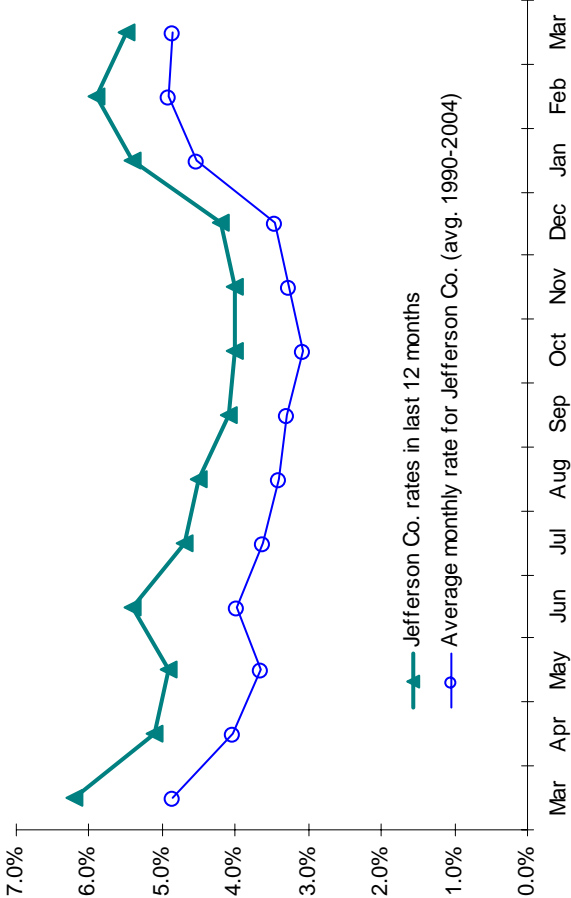
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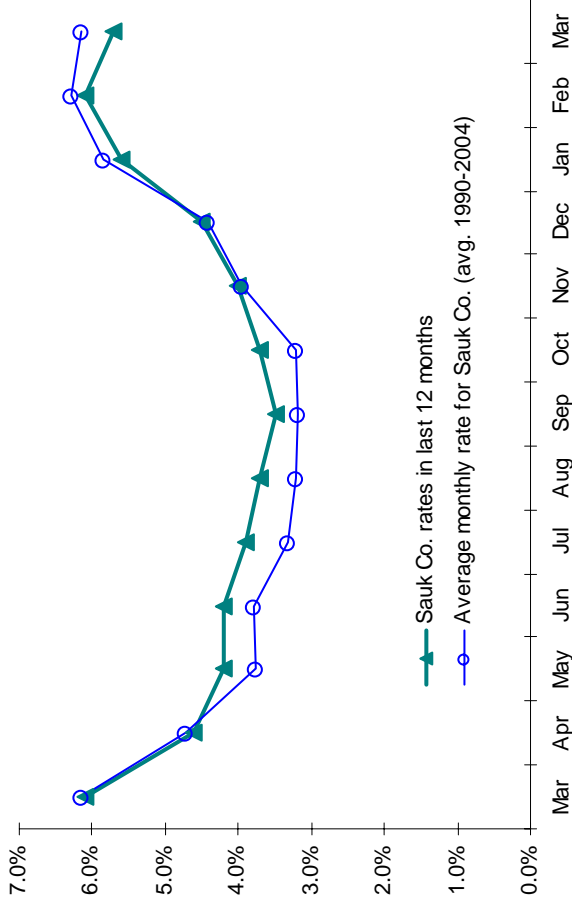
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